

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08757 01 OF 02 121604Z

44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 COME-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 NEA-14 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 101018

O R 121553Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2045

INFO CINCUSAFE

CSAF WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

FAA WASHDC

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08757

CSAF PASS AF/XO FOR COL C.D. KELLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: BEXP, UK

SUBJECT: FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL 1974 - PRESS PROMOTION AND US MILITARY AIRCRAFT

REF: A) STATE 143996 B) LONDON 8107 C) CSAF/XO 282337Z JUNE 74 D) CSAF/XO 102320Z JULY 74 NOTAL

1. REF A ANNOUNCES THAT SOME MILITARY AIRCRAFT WILL BE SHOWN AT FARNBOROUGH EITHER THROUGH LEASE TO MANUFACTURERS OR THROUGH US GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP. REF A ALSO SAYS SR71 WILL MAKE APPEARANCE AT SHOW BUT DOES NOT GIVE DETAILS. FROM MORE RECENT TRAFFIC IN DAO CHANNELS, WE UNDERSTAND PLANNING FOR APPEARANCE THESE AIRCRAFT IS STILL UNDERWAY AND THAT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD AWAIT FURTHER WORD FROM WASHINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 08757 01 OF 02 121604Z

2. IN VIEW OF INTENSE PRESS INTEREST IN US MILITARY AIR-CRAFT TO BE DISPLAYED AT FIRST FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL (REF B), WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS AT APPROPRIATE TIME AFTER DEPARTMENT INFORMS US OF DRAFT ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND AFTER WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR THE APPROVED USG DRAFT WITH THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE. FCO (THOMPSON, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, AMONG OTHERS) HAS INFORMED US THAT HMG HAS NO OBJECTION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS TO APPEARANCE OF SR71 AT FARNBOROUGH. HOWEVER, HE ASKED, AND WE HAVE AGREED, TO CONSULT WITH THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON A PRESS LINE (QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS) IN ADVANCE OF ANY PUBLICITY.

3. WE BELIEVE INTERESTS OF US PARTICIPATION IN FARNBOROUGH WOULD BEST BE SERVED IF ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE TO AVIATION PRESS BY EMBASSY LONDON OR BY LONDON AND WASHINGTON SIMULTANEOUSLY. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH LEADING AVIATION JOURNALISTS REGARDING OUR PARTICIPATION AND BELIEVE THAT THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE US AT FARNBOROUGH.

4. WE UNDERSTAND AIR STAFF, DOD, HAS BEEN WORKING ON PRESS GUIDANCE RE US AIRCRAFT AT FARNBOROUGH, BUT OFFER THE FOLLOWING AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE POINTS WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE MADE.

BEGIN QUOTE THE US EMBASSY IN LONDON IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS INFORMED US THE FOLLOWING MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN LEASED FOR DISPLAY AT FARNBOROUGH: S-3A, P-3C AND F-15. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ALSO INFORMS US THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY AIRCRAFT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH LEASES FOR THE FARNBOROUGH SHOW. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE HIGH ALTITUDE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, THE SR71, WILL MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT THE FARNBOROUGH SHOW.

THE FACT THAT THESE AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE IS EVIDENCE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 08757 01 OF 02 121604Z

END QUOTE

5. IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT WHEN IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT THE SR71 WILL BE DISPLAYED AT FARNBOROUGH WE SHALL RECEIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT AND ITS POSSIBLE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR IN OCTOBER 1973 WHICH HARK BACK TO SPATE OF PRESS STORIES LAST DECEMBER. WE PROPOSE TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS OUTLINED BELOW:

QUESTION: IS THE SR71 THE AIRCRAFT BASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH WAS USED FOR AIR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER ISRAEL AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES DURING THE OCTOBER WAR?

ANSWER: THE SR71 IS A HIGH ALTITUDE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF USES. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON ANY SPECIFIC MISSIONS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THESE AIRCRAFT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08757 02 OF 02 121608Z

44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 COME-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 NEA-14 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 101140

O R 121553Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2046

INFO CINCUSAFE

CSAF WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

FAA WASHDC

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08757

QUESTION: WASN'T THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO BE IDENTIFIED AS THE BASE FOR THE SR71 A FACTOR WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORSENING OF ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE OCTOBER WAR?

ANSWER: THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE A HISTORY OF CLOSE COOPERATION IN DEFENSE MATTERS WHICH GOES BACK MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY. WE MAKE IT A PRACTICE NOT TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS COOPERA-

TION.

QUESTION: ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME THE SR71 HAS BEEN SHOWN AT AN AIR SHOW?

ANSWER: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE SR71 HAS BEEN ON DISPLAY AT AN INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. IT IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR DISPLAY AT FARNBOROUGH IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE ONE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ASPECT OF US TECHNOLOGY IN THE AEROSPACE FIELD.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR AMENDMENTS TO FORE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 08757 02 OF 02 121608Z

GOING OR CLEARED ALTERNATE DRAFT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE MAY COORDINATE IT WITH BRITISH AUTHORITIES.

7. FYI ACCORDING TO THE FARNBOROUGH ORGANIZERS, THE SBAC, THE FOLLOWING US AIRCRAFT ARE SCHEDULED FOR DISPLAY AT THE AIR SHOW: BOEING 6847, CESSNA CITATION, LEAR JET 36 AND 25B, LOCKHEED TRISTAR, UNITED AIRCRAFT SIKORSKY H-53, PLUS PIPERS, BELL JET RANGERS, TWO BEECHCRAFT, ROCKWELL LIGHT AIRCRAFT AND ENSTROM F-28.

SOHM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON08757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740186-1177
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740754/aaaabuba.tel
Line Count: 196
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 143996 B) LONDON 8107 C) CS, AF/XO
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL 1974 - PRESS PROMO- TION AND US MILITARY AIRCRAFT
TAGS: BEXP, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005